

**NEW
MEDITATIONS
ON
THE
WAY
OF
THE
CROSS**

NEW MEDITATIONS ON THE WAY OF THE CROSS

By The Reverend William J. Alberts



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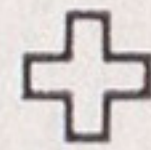
The Diocese of Pennsylvania

January 20, 1945.

I am very glad to commend your booklet to accompany the Stations of the Cross. It seems to me to be very loyal to the Prayer Book. I am sure that those who use this form of devotion will find this booklet helpful.

Faithfully your bishop,

(Signed) OLIVER J. HART.



The Author wishes to acknowledge his thanks to The Reverend Franklin Joiner, D.D., for his encouragement in printing this little work, and for the use of the illustrations herein, which are those of his parish, St. Clement's, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Before the Stations:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, Whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first He suffered pain, and entered not into glory before He was crucified; mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the Cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through the same Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

I

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee,

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.



The condemnation of Jesus is not something which was done once for all nineteen hundred years ago. He is daily condemned by thousands who sacrifice His way of life to their own selfishness. With the people of old they cry "Away with Him; crucify Him." Has any action of mine added a nail to the many piercing my Lord to His Cross?

Let us pray:

O Lord, Whose way is perfect, help us, we pray Thee, always to trust in Thy goodness: that walking with Thee, and following Thee in all simplicity, we may possess quiet and contented minds; and may cast all our care on Thee, who carest for us. Amen.



V. O Saviour of the World, Who by Thy Cross and precious blood hast redeemed the world;

R. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

God the Father, God the Son,
God the Spirit, Three in One,
Hear us from Thy heavenly throne:
Spare us, Holy Trinity.



JESUS RECEIVES HIS CROSS

II

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee,

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.



A cross is laid with crushing weight upon the Son of God. Likewise today upon many souls the burden of a cross is laid,—burdens of military service, of labor, of pain, of sickness, of poverty or hunger. So many souls need our prayers in this hour of their need and heavy burden.

Let us pray:

O merciful God and heavenly Father, Who hast taught us in Thy holy Word that Thou dost not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men: Look with pity, we beseech Thee, upon the sorrows of Thy servants for whom our prayers are offered. Remember them, O Lord, in mercy; endue their souls with patience; comfort them with a sense of Thy goodness; lift up Thy countenance upon them and give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



V. O Saviour of the World, Who by Thy Cross and precious blood hast redeemed the world;

R. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

Father, hear Thy children's call;

Humbly at Thy feet we fall,

Prodigals, confessing all:

We beseech Thee, hear us.



JESUS FALLS UNDER HIS CROSS

III

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee,

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.



Worn out and weary from all He has borne, Jesus falls to the ground. The Cross causes many to stumble. For all the fallen children of God; for all whose frail flesh has not been equal to the burden and heat of the day; for all who have succumbed to manifold temptations,

Let us pray:

O God, Who desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live, have mercy upon all who have fallen prey to divers temptations and support them with Thy love that they may stand; for Christ's sake. Amen.



V. O Saviour of the World, Who by Thy Cross and precious blood hast redeemed the world;

R. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

Christ, beneath Thy cross, we blame
All our life of sin and shame;
Penitent we breathe Thy Name:
We beseech Thee, hear us.



JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

IV

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee,
R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.



Here is a scene that rends our hearts. This meeting of Jesus with His blessed Mother is no far-off event unconnected with daily life. Mothers and their sons are meeting today and parting with heavy hearts. God grant that the sacrifice of mothers and sons may, through our devotion to the Way of the Cross, avail for the healing of the nations. For all who are separated from loved ones,

Let us pray:

O God, Whose Fatherly care reacheth to the uttermost parts of the earth; we humbly beseech Thee graciously to behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing near to Thee, may be bound together by Thy love in the communion of Thy Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of Thy saints, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



V. O Saviour of the World, Who by Thy Cross and precious blood hast redeemed the world;
R. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

Holy Spirit, grieved and tried,
Oft forgotten and defied,
Now we mourn our stubborn pride:
We beseech Thee, hear us.



THE CROSS IS LAID ON SIMON THE
CYRENIAN

V

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee,

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.



Who was Simon? Nobody knows. He was unknown and would be unknown today but for the fact that he shared the burden of the Cross with Jesus. For all chaplains, doctors, nurses and those who in any capacity share Jesus' Cross by ministering to His brothers,

Let us pray:

O Lord, our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be ministered unto, but to minister: We beseech Thee to bless all who, following in His steps, give themselves to the service of their fellow men. Endue them with wisdom, patience and courage to strengthen the weak and raise up those who fall; that being inspired by Thy love, they may worthily minister in Thy Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for Christ's sake. Amen.



V. O Saviour of the World, Who by Thy Cross and precious blood hast redeemed the world;

R. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

Love, that caused us first to be,
Love, that bled upon the tree,
Love, that draws us lovingly:
We beseech Thee, hear us.



VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

VI

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee,

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.



Here again we have an unknown person immortalized because of a simple act of kindness. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me." A beautiful story tells us that when Veronica wiped our Lord's face, the imprint of His face was left upon her handkerchief. May our actions in His service impress His likeness upon our lives.

Let us pray:

O God, Who hast prepared for those who love Thee such good things as pass man's understanding, pour into our hearts such love toward Thee, that we, loving Thee above all things, may obtain Thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



V. O Saviour of the World, Who by Thy Cross and precious blood hast redeemed the world;

R. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

We Thy call have disobeyed,
Into paths of sin have strayed,
And repentance have delayed:

We beseech Thee, hear us.



JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME

VII

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee,

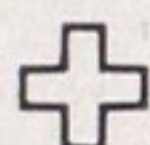
R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.



A second times Jesus' strength fails and He falls under the weight of the cross. Sheer physical exhaustion is often the cause of human failure. What a consoling thought for us who so often fall because of physical weakness! Truly is it said, "We have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities." Our Lord bore it all before us; He bore it all on behalf of us. How much are we willing to bear for His sake and for the sake of weaker brethren?

Let us pray:

O God, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright; Grant to us such strength and protection, as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



V. O Saviour of the World, Who by Thy Cross and precious blood hast redeemed the world;

R. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

Grant us hope from earth to rise,
And to strain with eager eyes
Towards the promised heavenly prize:
We beseech Thee, hear us.



JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN OF
JERUSALEM

VIII

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee,

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.



“Weep not for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.” How sadly true are these words. Jesus’ death upon the Cross was soon to be accomplished. But the spirit that killed Him still bereaves mothers of their children. Hate and selfishness killed Jesus. They still kill thousands daily. Does any hatred or selfishness unrepented of in my life add fuel to the consuming fire and menace children yet unborn?

Let us pray:

Eternal God, in Whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, and no strength known but the strength of love: We pray Thee so mightily to shed and spread abroad Thy Spirit, that all peoples and nations may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one God and Father of all; to Whom be dominion and glory now and forever. Amen.



V. O Saviour of the World, Who by Thy Cross and precious blood hast redeemed the world;

R. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

Sick, we come to Thee for cure,

Guilty, seek Thy mercy sure,

Evil, long to be made pure:

We beseech Thee, hear us.



JESUS FALLS A THIRD TIME

IX

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee,

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.



Three times Jesus fell beneath the weight of the cross. But each time He arose and walked on. Walked on to what? To the Hill of Calvary where they crucified Him. He arose and pressed forward to die for us. When we fall into sin do we recall that He arose to die that we might have courage and strength to live? "To Him that overcometh will I give the crown of eternal life."

Let us pray:

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, Who knowest our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking; we beseech Thee to have compassion upon our infirmities; and those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, vouchsafe to give us, for the worthiness of Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



V. O Saviour of the World, Who by Thy Cross and precious blood hast redeemed the world;

R. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

All our weak endeavors bless,

As we ever forward press,

Lead us on to holiness:

We beseech Thee, hear us.



JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

X

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee,

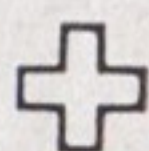
R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.



Soon for all of us the garments of this life will be stripped off. No worldly honour, power or prestige will cover the nakedness of our spiritual life then. As the body of Jesus was revealed to the scornful gaze of mocking men, so our souls shall stand naked, before the judgment seat of God. Let us pray for grace and humility to strip our souls of all pride and every sin that besets us, that we may be clothed with the righteousness of Christ.

Let us pray:

Almighty Father, Who hast given Thine only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve Thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



V. O Saviour of the World, Who by Thy Cross and precious blood hast redeemed the world;

R. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

Blind, we pray that we may see,

Bound, we pray to be made free,

Stained, we pray for sanctity:

We beseech Thee, hear us.



JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

XI

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee,

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.



We do not need to dwell on the sufferings of Jesus as He was nailed to the Cross. But we ought surely to contemplate the way He bore them. No word of recrimination; no desire for revenge; no crying out for the blood of His tormentors. May we learn to bear our pains of body and mind and soul in the same spirit and offer them up to the glory of God.

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, by Whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before Thee for all estates of men in Thy holy Church, that every member of the same, in his vocation and ministry, may truly and godly serve Thee; through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.



V. O Saviour of the World, Who by Thy Cross and precious blood hast redeemed the world;

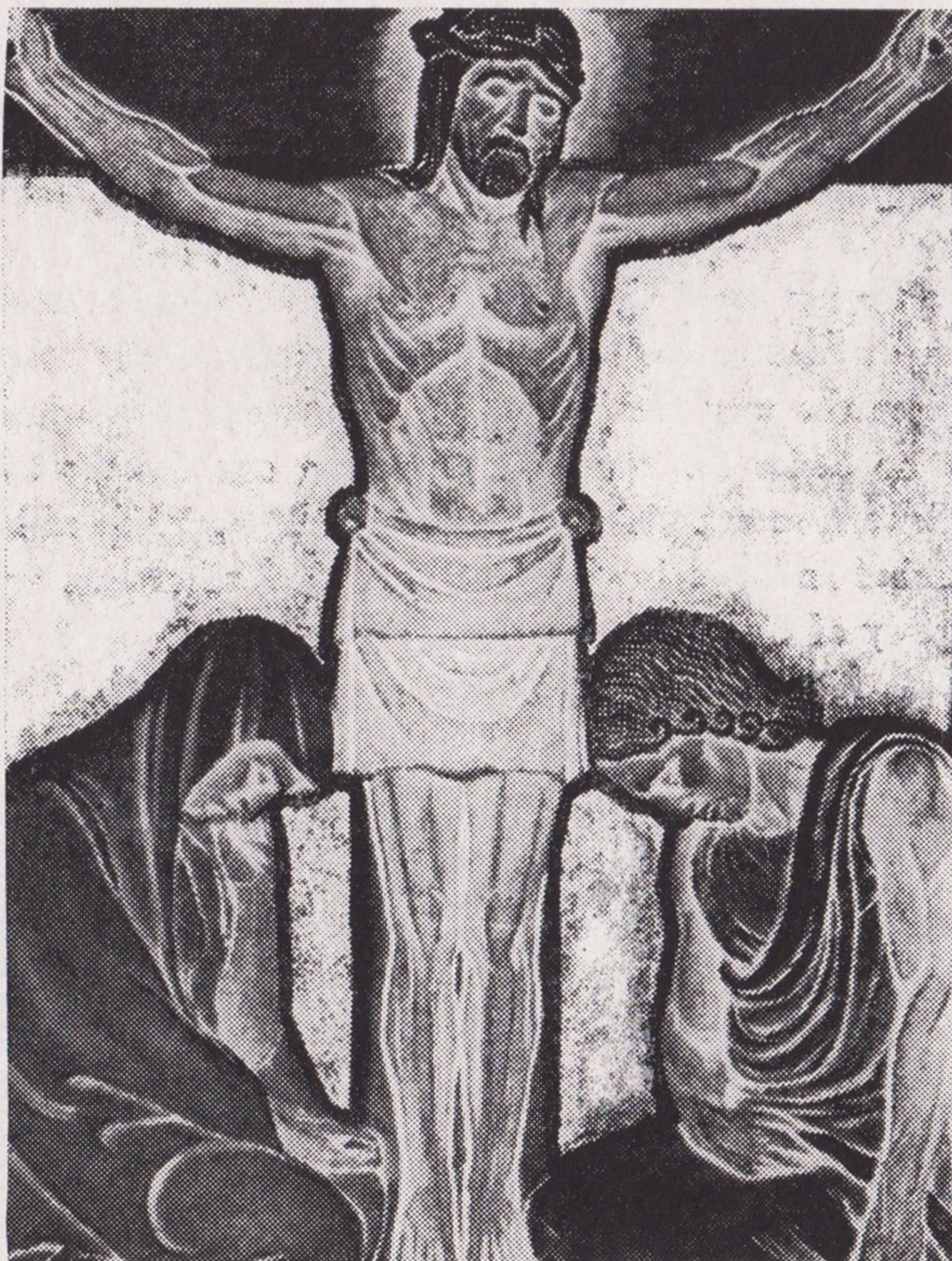
R. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

Thou Who hear'st each contrite sigh,

Bidding sinful souls draw nigh,

Willing not that one should die:

We beseech Thee, hear us.



JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

XII

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee,
R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.



As in the beginning the way of sin was preferred and deliberately chosen to the way of righteousness, so again men reject the love of God for their own wilful ways. But not all men so rejected Him. Let us thank God for those whose courage and devotion made the Gospel possible for us; and let us pray that we in our generation may bear faithful witness to the Son of God Who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, Who dost enkindle the flame of Thy love in the hearts of the Saints: Grant to us, Thy humble servants, the same faith and power of love; that as we rejoice in their triumphs, we may profit by their examples; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



V. O Saviour of the World, Who by Thy Cross and precious blood hast redeemed the world;
R. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

By the gracious saving call,
Spoken tenderly to all
Who have shared man's guilt and fall:
We beseech Thee, hear us.



JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

XIII

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee,
R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.



"He was despised and rejected of men." They left Him hanging there and went their way. But loving hands took Him down and prepared the torn and bleeding body for burial. Did any great venture have more unpromising beginning? Let us think of this when we are plagued by the fact of our own failures in the Christian life. Goodness, though mocked, despised, rejected and forsaken, nevertheless shall rise again.

Let us pray:

O almighty God, Who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men, grant unto Thy people, that they may love the thing which Thou commandest and desire that which Thou dost promise; that so among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



V. O Saviour of the World, Who by Thy Cross and precious blood hast redeemed the world;
R. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

By the nature Jesus wore,
By the stripes and death He bore,
By His life for evermore:
We beseech Thee, hear us.



JESUS IS PLACED IN THE SEPULCHRE

XIV

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee,

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.



The processes of God cannot be hurried. Jesus lay in the tomb and all creation stood still. When we are impatient at the slowness of our progress; when results we look for do not materialize; we should contemplate Jesus lying in the tomb. All seemed lost; yet in a few short days a new creation was born among men.

Let us pray:

O God of peace, Who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of Thy Spirit lift us, we pray Thee, to Thy presence, where we may be still and know that Thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



V. O Saviour of the World, Who by Thy Cross and precious blood hast redeemed the world;

R. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

By the love that longs to bless,
Pitying our sore distress,
Leading us to holiness:

We beseech Thee, hear us.

After the Stations:

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Grant to us, Lord, who have walked in loving contemplation of the way of the Cross, grace to show forth in our daily lives the fruits thereof; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, Who didst so love the world that Thou gavest Thine only-begotten Son for the redemption of all, grant that we, too, may give ourselves for souls. May we, by a life of devotion to our fellow men, merit to join on the last great day the multitude which no man can number, of all nations, and tribes, and peoples, and tongues, standing before the Throne, crying with a loud voice, "Praise be to our God, Who by His Holy Cross has redeemed all mankind." Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

